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FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$) 1,500.00**Complete if Known**

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number | 10/047,827 |
| Filing Date | 10/29/01 |
| First Named Inventor | Jason R. Thompson |
| Examiner Name | Laura B. Rosenberg |
| Art Unit | 3516 |
| Attorney Docket No. | D5110 |

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None☒ Deposit Account:Deposit
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14-0603

International Truck & Engine

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1001 | 770 | 2001 | 385 | Utility filing fee | |
| 1002 | 340 | 2002 | 170 | Design filing fee | |
| 1003 | 530 | 2003 | 265 | Plant filing fee | |
| 1004 | 770 | 2004 | 385 | Reissue filing fee | |
| 1005 | 160 | 2005 | 80 | Provisional filing fee | |

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

| Total Claims | | Extra Claims | | Fee from below | | Fee Paid | |
|--------------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|--|----------|--|
| Independent | | -20** = | | X | | | |
| Multiple Dependent | | -3** = | | X | | | |

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1202 | 18 | 2202 | 9 | Claims in excess of 20 | |
| 1201 | 86 | 2201 | 43 | Independent claims in excess of 3 | |
| 1203 | 290 | 2203 | 145 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid | |
| 1204 | 86 | 2204 | 43 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent | |
| 1205 | 18 | 2205 | 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent | |

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, 600 above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Small Entity

| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|----------|
| 1051 | 130 | 2051 | 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | |
| 1052 | 50 | 2052 | 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | |
| 1053 | 130 | 1053 | 130 | Non-English specification | |
| 1812 | 2,520 | 1812 | 2,520 | For filing a request for ex parte reexamination | |
| 1804 | 920* | 1804 | 920* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | |
| 1805 | 1,840* | 1805 | 1,840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | |
| 1251 | 110 | 2251 | 55 | Extension for reply within first month | |
| 1252 | 420 | 2252 | 210 | Extension for reply within second month | |
| 1253 | 950 | 2253 | 475 | Extension for reply within third month | |
| 1254 | 1,480 | 2254 | 740 | Extension for reply within fourth month | |
| 1255 | 2,010 | 2255 | 1,005 | Extension for reply within fifth month | |
| 1401 | 330 | 2401 | 165 | Notice of Appeal | |
| 1402 | 330 | 2402 | 165 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | |
| 1403 | 290 | 2403 | 145 | Request for oral hearing | |
| 1451 | 1,510 | 1451 | 1,510 | Petition to Institute a public use proceeding | |
| 1452 | 110 | 2452 | 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | |
| 1453 | 1,330 | 2453 | 665 | Petition to revive - unintentional | 1500 |
| 1501 | 1,330 | 2501 | 665 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | |
| 1502 | 480 | 2502 | 240 | Design issue fee | |
| 1503 | 640 | 2503 | 320 | Plant issue fee | |
| 1460 | 130 | 1460 | 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | |
| 1807 | 60 | 1807 | 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) | |
| 1806 | 180 | 1806 | 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | |
| 8021 | 40 | 8021 | 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | |
| 1809 | 770 | 2809 | 385 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a)) | |
| 1810 | 770 | 2810 | 385 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b)) | |
| 1801 | 770 | 2801 | 385 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | |
| 1802 | 900 | 1802 | 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | |

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 1,500.00**SUBMITTED BY**

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37,105

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Date 2/17/05

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**In Re: Patent Application of:
Thompson**

**Patent Application
Thompson**

**Serial No.: 10/047,827
Filed: 9/29/01
Docket No.: D5110**

**For: Universal Accessory-
Mounting Assembly**

**RECEIVED IN THE U.S. PATENT &
TRADEMARK OFFICE:**

**1. Appeal Brief with attached
Certificate of First Class
Mailing (in triplicate)**

2. Fee transmittal sheet

Date Sent: 3/23/04

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Serial No.: 10/047,827
Atty. Docket No.: D5110

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Thompson, Jason R.
Serial No.; 10/047,827
Filed: 29 September 2001

Group Art Unit: 3618
Examiner: **Rosenberg**

For: **UNIVERSAL ACCESSORY-MOUNTING ASSEMBLY**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF

The final rejection of claims 1-40, inclusive, was appealed on March 23, 2004.
Applicant's appeal brief follows.

1) **Statement of Interest.**

The present application is assigned to International Truck Intellectual Property Company, LLC.

2) **Related Appeals and Interferences.**

The appellant, his legal representative and the assignee know of no other appeals or interferences which will directly effect, be directly effected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

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3) Status of the Claims

Claims 1-40 stand finally rejected and all are appealed.

4) Status of Amendments

An amendment after final was filed 12 January 2004 and was entered for purposes of appeal by communication from the Examiner mailed 20 January 2004.

5) Summary of the Invention

The invention addresses the problem of providing a stable, external mount for accessories on trucks. The trucks may come in differing, and changing, designs, while the invention provides an external mount in a single configuration which adapts to fit the differing shapes of the vehicles on installation. The inventive external mount modifies the common, tripod like arrangement of the prior art illustrated at Fig. 3 of the application by using ball and socket joints to attach at least one, but preferably all, of the legs of the tripod to the mounting feet. Any mounting foot (base attachment structures 17) attached to a leg by a ball and socket joint may individually assume any required orientation to squarely meet an exterior surface of the truck, such as a hood or fender. The tripod is secured to the surfaces by screws extending between the bottoms of the feet into (or through) the supporting surfaces, typically in combination with a nut. The three, or more, legs are stabilized upon securing the base-attachment structures at non-collinear points of attachment fixing the joints of the structure from further rotation.

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6) Issues

The claimed invention of this appeal stands rejected as unpatentable for obviousness under the criteria of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). More particularly, claims 1-40 stand rejected over Murgas (US-P 3,395,883) in view of Rawlinson (US-P 5,100,093). Claims 1-40 were further rejected over the admitted prior art (Fig. 3 of the present application) in view of the Rawlinson '093 patent. The issue on appeal is whether the Examiner correctly held that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the references and admitted prior art in order to produce the claimed invention.

7) Grouping of Claims

Applicant identifies claims 1-4, 12-16, 17-21, 29-31 and 33-40 as standing or falling together. Claims 5-11 and 22-28 stand or fall together.

The claims grouped with claim 1, while requiring at least three legs ("support components"), require only one of the legs be attached by a "ball-and-socket joint" to a "base-attachment structure". The claims grouped with claim 5 require all three legs be attached to their respective feet using a "ball-and-socket joint".

The prior art uniformly illustrates connection of the legs of an accessory support and its respective vehicle using either all fixed or all pivotable connectors. The claims grouped with claim 1 contemplate the possibility of mixing connecting elements between legs and feet, while requiring at least one of the connecting elements be pivotable (see particularly claim 2). That the purpose of the present invention may be achieved using a mixed set of joints highlights the distinctiveness of the invention vis-à-vis the

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Rawlinson reference, which contemplates a collapsible accessory support. The second contemplates a collapsible group of claims require all of at least three connecting elements be pivotable. The orientation of the structure is still locked (see, e.g. claim 6), providing another point of distinction with Rawlinson.

8) Argument

1. Construction of the Rawlinson '093 patent

Rawlinson is directed, among other things, to providing a boat mirror which can be mounted to the top frame of boat windshields. The frame of the windshield may follow various contours. The mirror is pivotable between an upright position and a stowed position. See Rawlinson '093 patent, col. 1, lines 53-60. Rawlinson is explicitly directed to a mirror support, and more particularly to a "mounting for an elongated, relatively narrow, mirror above the windshield of a ski boat". See '093 patent, col. 1, lines 65-66. It is inappropriate to assert that Rawlinson teaches a "universal accessory-mounting assembly" as done on page 3 of the final Office action. The application uses the term "universal" to refer to a variety of accessories. See paragraph [0012]. Rawlinson teaches supporting the elongated mirror at each end of the mirror using two legs or "arms 34". See '093 patent, Figs. 2, 3, 15, 16; col. 4, lines 31-34. This mirror mounting arrangement provides (using various types of pivoting joints, including ball and socket arrangements as shown in Fig. 5), which in provide "a multi-axis pivot that adapts to a wide variety of windshield shapes, and that permits pivoting the mirror down and out of the way when not in use". See '093 patent, col. 2, lines 4-7. The mounting arrangement further allows adjustment "to the angle of the windshield". See '093 patent, col. 2, lines 20-24. This is taken to mean the degree of rake of the windshield.

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Murgas does not deal with attachment to a variety of surfaces, but only to the top of the frame of a windshield. The windshield may be curved or angled and the length of the mirror may vary. Two purposes are served by providing pivotal joints. The first purpose is to allow orientation (in at least one axis) of the attachment brackets to the windshield frame. The second purpose to allow downward pivoting for storage. This second purpose would be defeated if three points of attachment existed, assuming the three points were not co-axial. There is no desire in the present invention to provide a folding mount since such a structure would not be stable without additional locking elements for the joints as provided by Rawlinson.

Rawlinson teaches three types of ball and socket support arrangements for a rear view mirror which is supported at each of two ends from a windshield frame and which is adapted to fold downwardly when not in use for transport. The first of these "ball and socket" embodiments is shown in Fig. 5 of the patent, wherein a support leg (ball socket member) 55 is attached to a clamp 51 by use of a cap screw (not shown) through a counter bored clearance hole 53 through the clamp and a slot 57 through the support leg. The clamp (corresponding to the base-attachment structure of the present application) and the ball socket member (corresponding to the support member) are not engaged to one another by the ball and socket joint but rather by a screw to be introduced through the clamp into the ball socket member. See generally, col. 5, lines 4-35 of the '093 patent. Slot 57 allows the supported structure to be folded downwardly. Use of a ball seems to be regarded as necessary to allow the clamp to rotate on an axis corresponding to the direction of elongation of the ball socket member in a fashion similar to that indicated with reference to a preferred embodiment of the Rawlinson apparatus described with reference to Fig. 3. See the arrow identified with reference numeral 46. Such an adaptation allows handling windshields having angled sections.

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See Fig. 16. It may be noted that once a screw is introduced, movement of the clamp once a screw is relative to the ball socket member is limited to rotation on this axis of the screw and to folding on a single axis. The movement is no longer biaxial, as the term is used in the present application.

Rawlinson's second and third ball-and-socket embodiments are closely related. They are illustrated in Rawlinson in Figs. 6-10. For these embodiments the ball element is described as "... a partial ball having a threaded counter shank 61." This structure is screwed into a clamp 63. "A ball socket member has a cylindrical ball socket that is adapted to slide down over the ball. The ball socket member is provided with a split that permits a clamping action on the ball." See '093 patent, col. 5, lines 38-47. Engagement does not occur until a screw is used to clamp the socket on to the ball since the supported structure is free to move up and down. Once engagement is achieved there is no biaxial freedom of movement.

At page 4, the first full paragraph of the final action the Examiner states:

Rawlinson discloses three support components (#16, 20, 28) being engaged to each other in such a manner that they are selectively movable relative to each other, the three support components being uniaxially pivotally engaged to each other and their orientations being uniaxially pivotally adjustable relative to each other (column 2, lines 20-21, 25-28).

This appears to be a misstatement and it is believed that the Examiner intended to reference the Murgas '883 patent here. Rawlinson nowhere discloses use of three "support components" or legs.

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2) Construction of the Murgas '883 patent

Murgas teaches a Detachable Fender Mounted Rear View Mirror comprising a tripod shaped device based in part on a center tube 16, a "lateral brace 20" and a "longitudinal brace 22". These elements form a upper triangular unit fitted by hooks along one side to the gap between the vehicle fender and the motor vehicle's hood. A support leg 28 extends downwardly from tube 16 to engage the vehicle's wheel well. The structure is stabilized, and the fender and hood feet maintained in gripping position by a Y-shaped clamping rubber 40 having outer ends secured to the feet at the ends of the legs and tube. The structure, unlike Rawlinson, the Admitted prior art, or the invention under appeal, is intended to be readily removable.

The present invention, as best illustrated in Fig. 4 of the application, is fixed to exterior surfaces and not hooked into position. It may be positioned largely independent of the orientation of the those surfaces. See specification paragraph [0005] where it states "Because the base attachment structure is biaxially pivotally engaged to the support component its orientation relative to the rest of the universal accessory-mounting assembly and the surface of the base structure can be adjusted indefinitely with a wide range of angles about two axes . . .". This is achieved by providing, as claimed, a "bi-axially pivotally engaged" connected between support legs and the "base-attachment structures".

3) The Admitted Prior Art

As shown in Fig. 3, the Admitted Prior art is an accessory mount. This mount is modified by the present invention to incorporate bi-axially pivotal feet to eliminate fixed

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orientation mounting of the tripod. The admitted prior art is viewed as closer art than the Murgas reference. However, the ends of the support legs are oriented to position a mounting foot to fit a vehicle at a predetermined location on the exterior of a particular vehicle.

4) The Combination of the References.

Applicant contends that it would not have been obvious to provide a fender mounted tripod accessory approach with multi-axially pivotal attachment feet for either a subset of its three legs (the first claim group) or for all three of its legs (the second claim group).

It is well settled that the determination of obviousness is a question of law, with underlying factual issues. The obviousness analysis, at its most general is based on the well-known *Graham* factors:

(1) the scope and content of the prior art; (2) the differences between the claims and the prior art; (3) the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and (4) secondary considerations, if any, of nonobviousness. *McGinley v. Franklin Sports, Inc.*, 60 USPQ2d 1001, 1007 (Fed. Cir. 2001) citing *Kegel Co., Inc. V. AMF Bowling, Inc.*, 127 USPQ2d 1027, 1031-1032 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Secondary considerations have not been presented in the prosecution of the present application. The art is a mechanical and predictable. The ordinary level of skill may be taken as one with some engineering training, including a technical degree and some experience in the motor vehicle industry. The Examiner has answered the shortcomings in the primary references by proposing modification of those references

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based on combination with Rawlinson.

In considering a combination of references the questions before the board are:

(a) whether a combination of the teachings of all or any of the references would have suggested (expressly or by implication) the possibility of achieving further improvement by combining such teachings along the line of the invention in suit, and (b) whether the claimed invention achieved more than a combination which any or all of the prior art references suggested, expressly or by reasonable implication." *In re Semaker*, 217 USPQ 1001, 5 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

In *McGinley v. Franklin Sports, Inc.*, 60 USPQ2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 2001) the Federal Circuit reversed a judgment of invalidity for obviousness and reinstated a jury verdict for the patentee. The facts concerning the patent and prior art were summarized by the Court at pages 60 USPQ2d at 1003-4. McGinley's patent related to an instructional baseball-pitching device with "finger placement indicia" for teaching how to grasp a baseball for different pitches. Indicia were marked on the ball in two sizes to differentiate right-handed grips from left-handed grips. Indicia were color coded to indicate the type of pitch. Placement for the palm was also indicated. The primary reference cited by the Applicant both to the Office and at trial was a United States Patent 2,925,273 to Pratt. Another reference, Morgan (3,110,494), though before the Office, came into issue only at litigation. Pratt like McGinley taught using a regulation baseball having multiple sets of finger placements for specific types of pitches. Pratt added an equatorial band comprising complementary colors which, upon throwing the ball, bended into a single color indicating that the ball had been thrown with the correct rotation. The Court commented that the similarities between McGinley and Pratt were striking, but noted that there were "a few" differences. Of particular significance to the

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Court was that Pratt had not taught using color to distinguish between grip points for left handed and right handed pitchers. Pratt's finger placement points were also described as "circular" rather than "egg-shaped".

The Morgan reference was relied on at trial to modify Pratt to teach the McGinley invention. It was argued by defendant that the:

"only element that is not clearly anticipated by the Pratt patent is the finger shaped marks that orient the ball with respect to the palm of the user's hand. . . . the concept of a set of finger marks to orient the ball is clearly taught in the Morgan patent. 60 USPQ2d at 1007.

The Federal Circuit however noted that the Morgan reference did not show markings for at least three different types of pitches, as did the McGinley patent, and that Morgan did not use a real baseball, as McGinley did. However, the Court characterized McGinley's best argument as being the one arguing that the references taught away from his patent. 60 USPQ2d at 1010. In essence this argument was that Pratt, though he taught finger position, in effect taught away from indicating finger orientation, because providing such would have destroyed the equatorial band feature.

Against the present application the Rawlinson reference is cited for providing the missing, pivotal connectors between the leg supports for a outside rear view mirror support tripod and the feet for the tripod to be attached to various exterior vehicle surfaces. Rawlinson however, deals with a situation where only two support positions are to be used and the entire structure is meant to be folded downwardly for storage. Obviously, if a structure is meant to be folded downwardly in the manner contemplated by Rawlinson, all of the pivotable connecting members must be co-axial, which occurs automatically where only two support legs are present. No reason has been given, or

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supplied by Rawlinson, that would suggest using ball-and-socket joints between some of the support legs of a tripod and its feet. There is no reason to modify either the admitted prior art or Murgas using the teachings of Rawlinson. In fact, since there is no desire to provide for folding the mirror support structure downwardly at its base in Murgas or the admitted prior art, but rather to stabilize the structure, Rawlinson in teaching use of ball-and-socket joints at the base of the structure teaches away from invention.

There are additional reasons to reject the modification of Murgas to incorporate a ball and socket coupling between the "hood feet 36" or "fender foot 34" and the tube 16, brace 20 or leg 28. Such a combination has the potential of rendering the apparatus taught by Murgas inoperable. Murgas states that "[i]n order to maintain the fender foot 34 and hood feet 36 in fender gripping position, a Y-shaped clamping rubber 40 . . . has each of the outer ends of its legs secured [by rivets 23, 42] to such feet . . . all of which also secure these feet to the tripodal mounting 14." See '883 patent, col. 2, lines 39-44. Were hood feet 34 attached to their respective legs using a floating or pliable means of attachment they would be free to rotate upwardly from the fender (see Fig. 3 of the '883 patent). Rotation of the feet would be possible under tension of the clamping rubber. Murgas depends upon externally applied force to keep the attachment feet properly located, which is undercut if the feet have no fixed orientation with respect to the elements of the tripod structure. While Murgas intended his device to be readily detachable it is unlikely that Murgas intended his device to be self-detaching.


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Conclusion

Applicant believes the Claims as amended are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 23, 2004
Warrenville, IL 60555
Tel. No. 630/753-3023



Jeffrey P. Calfa
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APPENDIX

1. (Previously Amended): A universal accessory-mounting assembly for supporting a universal accessory at a distance from a base structure to which the universal accessory-mounting assembly may be attached, comprising:

- (a) three or more support components each of which has a base end and an accessory-support end;
- (b) wherein each support component has its accessory-support end engaged directly or indirectly to accessory-support ends of every other support component;
- (c) two or more independent base-attachment structures each of which is engaged to a base end of one of said support components;
- (d) wherein each of said base-attachment structures comprises means for securing it to the base structure;
- (e) wherein one or more of said base-attachment structures are each biaxially pivotally engaged to said base end of a respective one of said support component(s) by a ball-and-socket joint;
- (f) accessory-attachment structure to which the accessory may be mounted; and
- (g) wherein said accessory-attachment structure is engaged directly or indirectly to and/or comprises one or more of said accessory-support ends of said support components.

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2. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) one or less of said base-attachment structures are engaged to a base end of a support component in a manner other than being biaxially pivotally engaged through a ball-and-socket joint.

3. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 2, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises two or more support components;
- (b) one or more of said support components is/are engaged directly or indirectly to other support component in such a manner that it/they are at least selectively movable relative to said other support components.

4. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 3, wherein:

- (a) one or more of said support components is/are uniaxially pivotally engaged directly or indirectly to all others of said support components and its/their orientations is/are, therefore, uniaxially pivotally adjustable relative to all others of said support components.

5. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 4, wherein:

- (a) every one of said base-attachment structures is biaxially pivotally engaged to a base end of one of said support components through a ball-and-socket joint.

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6. (Previously amended): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 5, wherein:

- (a) for each support component, which is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to other support components, said universal accessory-mounting assembly includes structure which can be utilized to selectively secure the orientation of said support component, which is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to other support components, relative to all others of said support components.

7. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 6, wherein:

- (a) every one of said support components is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to all others of said support components.

8. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 7, wherein:

- (a) each axis about which each support component is pivotal relative to other support components is disposed at an angle to all other axes about which all other support components are pivotal.

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9. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 8, wherein:

- (a) each of said base attachment structures comprises a mounting pad which has a flat mounting-face which is firmly pressed against the base structure when said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted to the base structure.

10. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 9, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

11. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 10, wherein:

- (a) each of said support components is a relatively long, thin, member and is of unitary construction.

12. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 2, wherein:

- (a) every one of said base-attachment structures is biaxially pivotally engaged to a base end of one of said support components through a ball-and-socket joint.

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13. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 12, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

14. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 13, wherein:

- (a) one or more of said support components is/are engaged directly or indirectly to other support component in such a manner that it/they are at least selectively movable relative to said other support components.

15. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 14, wherein:

- (a) every one of said support components is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to all others of said support components.

16. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

17. (Original): The universal accessory-mounting assembly of claim 2, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

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18. (Previously Amended): A vehicle, comprising: ~~(Previously Amended): A vehicle, comprising:~~

- (a) one or more frame structures to which a large percentage of other structures, components of said vehicle are directly or indirectly engaged and from which said components which are directly or indirectly engaged thereto derive support;
- (b) a suspension system which is engaged to said one or more frame structures of said vehicle and which supports said one or more frame structures of said vehicle above the ground and provides said vehicle with a relatively low resistance to movement along the ground;
- (c) one or more body structures, which are engaged to and supported by said one or more frame structures and within or upon which passengers and/or cargo may reside;
- (d) a universal accessory-mounting assembly that is mounted to a base structure which is one of said body structures of said vehicle;
- (e) wherein said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three or more support components each of which has a base end and an accessory-support end;
- (f) wherein each support component has its accessory-support end engaged directly or indirectly to accessory support ends of every other support component;
- (g) wherein said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises two or more independent base-attachment structures each of which is engaged to a base end of one of said support components and each of which is also attached to said vehicle body structure which is said base structure;

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- (h) wherein one or more of said base-attachment structures are each pivotally engaged to said base end of a respective one of said support component(s) by a ball-and-socket joint;
- (i) wherein said universal accessory-mounting assembly further comprises an accessory-attachment structure to which an accessory is mounted; and
- (j) wherein said accessory-attachment structure is engaged directly or indirectly to and/or comprises one or more of said accessory-support ends of said support components.

19. (Original): The vehicle of claim 18, wherein:

- (a) one or less of said base-attachment structures are engaged to a base end of a support component in a manner other than being biaxially pivotally engaged through a ball-and-socket joint.

20. (Original): The vehicle of claim 19, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises two or more support components;
- (b) one or more of said support components is/are engaged directly or indirectly to other support component in such a manner that it/they are at least selectively movable relative to said other support components.

21. (Original): The vehicle of claim 20, wherein:

- (a) one or more of said support components is/are uniaxially pivotally engaged directly or indirectly to all others of said support components and

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its/their orientations is/are, therefore, uniaxially pivotally adjustable relative to all others of said support components.

22. (Original): The vehicle of claim 21, wherein:

- (a) every one of said base-attachment structures is biaxially pivotally engaged to a base end of one of said support components through a ball-and-socket joint.

23. (Previously amended): The vehicle of claim 22, wherein:

- (a) for each support component, which is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to other support components, said universal accessory-mounting assembly includes structure which can be utilized to selectively secure the orientation of said support component, which is directly or indirectly uniaxially engaged to other support components, relative to all others of said support components.

24. (Original): The vehicle of claim 23, wherein:

- (a) every one of said support components is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to all others of said support components.

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25. (Original): The vehicle of claim 24, wherein:

- (a) each axis about which each support component is pivotal relative to ~~other~~ support components is disposed at an angle to all other axes about which all other support components are pivotal.

26. (Original): The vehicle of claim 25, wherein:

- (a) each of said base attachment structures comprises a mounting pad which has a flat mounting-face which is firmly pressed against said body structure of said vehicle that is said base structure.

27. (Original): The vehicle of claim 26, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

28. (Original): The vehicle of claim 27, wherein:

- (a) each of said support components is a relatively long, thin, member and is of unitary construction.

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29. (Original): The vehicle of claim 19, wherein:

the vehicle of claim 18, wherein:

- (a) every one of said base-attachment structures is biaxially pivotally engaged to a base end of one of said support components through a ball-and-socket joint.

30. (Original): The vehicle of claim 29, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

31. (Original): The vehicle of claim 30, wherein:

- (a) one or more of said support components is/are engaged directly or indirectly to other support component in such a manner that it/they are at least selectively movable relative to said other support components.

32. (Original): The vehicle of claim 31, wherein:

- (a) every one of said support components is directly or indirectly uniaxially pivotally engaged to all others of said support components.

33. (Original): The vehicle of claim 18, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

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34. (Original): The vehicle of claim 19, wherein:

- (a) said universal accessory-mounting assembly comprises three support components and three base-attachment structures.

35. (Original): The vehicle of claim 18, wherein:

- (a) said accessory that is mounted to said universal accessory-mounting assembly is selected from a group consisting of lights, antennas, and mirrors.

36. (Original): The vehicle of claim 35, wherein:

- (a) said body structures which said vehicle comprises include a cab and an engine compartment hood disposed in front of said cab;
- (b) said base structure to which said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted is said engine compartment hood;
- (c) said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted at a forward end of said engine compartment hood; and
- (d) said accessory that is mounted to said universal accessory-mounting assembly is a mirror a reflecting surface of which is directed at least partially toward said cab such that a driver of said vehicle can view images of areas in front of, beside, or behind, said vehicle in said reflecting surface of said mirror.

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37. (Original): The vehicle of claim 19, wherein:

~~vehicle of claim 19, wherein:~~

- ~~WHICH~~ (a) ~~said accessory that is mounted to said universal accessory-mounting assembly is selected from a group consisting of lights, antennas, and mirrors.~~

38. (Original): The vehicle of claim 37, wherein:

- (a) said body structures which said vehicle comprises include a cab and an engine compartment hood disposed in front of said cab;
- (b) said base structure to which said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted is said engine compartment hood;
- (c) said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted at a forward end of said engine compartment hood; and
- (d) said accessory that is mounted to said universal accessory-mounting assembly is a mirror a reflecting surface of which is directed at least partially toward said cab such that a driver of said vehicle can view images of areas in front of, beside, or behind, said vehicle in said reflecting surface of said mirror.

39. (Original): The vehicle of claim 30, wherein:

- (a) said accessory that is mounted to said universal accessory-mounting assembly is selected from a group consisting of lights, antennas, and mirrors.

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40. (Original): The vehicle of claim 39, wherein:

~~wherein the vehicle of claim 39, wherein~~

- ~~(a) said body structures which said vehicle comprises include a cab and an engine compartment hood disposed in front of said cab;~~
- (a) said body structures which said vehicle comprises include a cab and an engine compartment hood disposed in front of said cab;
- (b) said base structure to which said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted is said engine compartment hood;
- (c) said universal accessory-mounting assembly is mounted at a forward end of said engine compartment hood; and
- (d) said accessory that is mounted to said universal accessory-mounting assembly is a mirror a reflecting surface of which is directed at least partially toward said cab such that a driver of said vehicle can view images of areas in front of, beside, or behind, said vehicle in said reflecting surface of said mirror.

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Cathi Majewski

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